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Korea, Republic of Grain and Feed Update of Rice PS&D 2001

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Report Highlights: Korea raised its official 2001 rice crop forecast to 5.5 MMT based on results of an October 10 nationwide crop survey. Korea is forecasting the largest rice crop since 1990 under excellent growing conditions and a season absent of a typhoon.

Includes PSD changes: Yes Includes Trade Matrix: No Unscheduled Report Seoul [KS1], KS

PSD Table						
Country	Korea, Republic of					
Commodity	Rice, Milled				(1000 HA)(1000 N	MT)
	Revised	1999	Preliminary	2000	Forecast	2001
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		11/1999		11/2000		11/2001
Area Harvested	1066	1066	1072	1072	1072	1083
Beginning Stocks	767	767	1051	1051	1270	1270
Milled Production	5263	5263	5291	5291	5200	5500
Rough Production	7066	7066	7197	7197	7000	7432
MILLING RATE (.9999)	7448	7448	7352	7352	7429	7400
TOTAL Imports	141	141	128	128	154	154
Jan-Dec Imports	141	141	128	128	154	154
Jan-Dec Import U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	6171	6171	6470	6470	6624	6924
TOTAL Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jan-Dec Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Dom. Consumption	5120	5120	5200	5200	5200	5200
Ending Stocks	1051	1051	1270	1270	1424	1724
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	6171	6171	6470	6470	6624	6924

Based on the October 10 survey of 4,500 rice producers, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) raised its 2001 rice crop estimate to 5.5 MMT, or 3.8 percent larger than the 2000 crop. With consumer demand flat, it is projected the increased production would move into storage that would allow South Korea to donate old crop and imported rice to North Korea. Food aid talks with North Korea, however, are moving slowly.

Average yield, estimated at 5.13 MT per hectare (HA), is 3 percent higher than the year earlier amount, the result of favorable weather and adequate inputs during the flowering/grain maturing season. Although spring drought and cloudy conditions during the early June - early July period caused stunting in early plant development, warm temperatures and abundant sunlight prevailed since mid July providing excellent growing conditions resulting in the higher average yield.

The MAF attributes the bumper crop to a combination of excellent growing conditions involving favorable weather (including a year with no typhoons), low insect (leafhopper and rice water weevils) infestation and only minor disease (rice blast) damage.

Rice Acreage, Yield, And Production

KOREA: Rice Acreage, Yield, And Production (Milled Basis)							
Crop Year	Acreage (1,000 HA)	Yield (Kg/HA)	Production (1,000 MT)				
1997	1,052	5,180	5,449				
1998	1,059	4,814	5,097				
1999	1,066	4,937	5,263				
2000	1,072	4,936	5,291				
2001a/	1,083	5,130	5,503				

a/ Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry estimate.

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)